



**SCHOOL OF LAW AND SOCIAL JUSTICE**

**INTERNATIONAL CRIMINOLOGICAL RESEARCH UNIT (ICRU):  
RESEARCH SEMINAR**

**WEDNESDAY 10<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2016: 4pm – 5.30pm (VENUE TBC)**

**Professor Tim Hope**

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*Victims of Crime: The Dimensions of Risk*

There is a belief that the risk of crime victimization is part and parcel of ‘everyday life’. And since people differ in their everyday lives, so they are supposed to differ in their risk of becoming victims too. Nevertheless, because empirical studies focus on individual victims, the risk of victimization has been conceptualised as if it were an attribute of individuals, reducible to their human relationships, lifestyle choices and routine activities. The widespread use of the General Linear Model has facilitated the construction of a disease model of individual victimization risk, which is thought to increase the more regularly and frequently people are ‘exposed’ to perpetrators. In turn, this model supports theoretical perspectives emphasising behavioural and choice explanations of victimhood.

Social structural explanations of the distribution of victimization have remained under-developed, in part by virtue of the absence of appropriate analytical methods to validate them. Fortunately, computational techniques (Data Mining) now promise a way forward. In this paper, preliminary findings from the 2013/14 Crime Survey for England and Wales are presented that are indicative of the social distribution of victimization amongst the general, adult population. As crime has ‘dropped’, so acts of inter-personal violation have crystallized around the denizens of the Precariat, while the majority seem to have gained immunity from direct contact crime.

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